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(b) There are five peripatetic weaving parties and one dyeing party which are controlled and directed by the Assistant Director of Industries (Textiles).

(c) The principal textile industry is hand-loom weaving. Fly-shuttle slays and cheap types of border dobbies have been the chief improvements introduced by the department. In respect of silk manufacture, power driven machinery for preparatory processes has been installed in the Textile Institute. The Assistant Director has been successful in inducing an owner of silk weaving factory to instal similar machinery.

As regards woollen manufacture, a wool spinning plant has been installed in the institute. Attempts are being made by the Assistant Director to induce capitalists to instal such plants for the benefit of the cumbly weavers.

So far as coir manufacture is concerned, the chief problem of efficient and speedy retting is receiving attention.

As regards knitting, arrangements have been made to instal at the Textile Institute a wide range of machinery, both hand and power driven, for instructional and demonstration purposes.

As regards bleaching and dyeing, the peripatetic party has been visiting several centres and instructing the dyers in modern methods of dyeing.

In respect of cloth printing, the dyeing party has been visiting select cloth printing centres and instructing the workers in modern methods of stencil printing.

(d) None.

Public Works

Use of Bells asbestos sheets by the Public Works Department.

*1072 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department are now making increased use of Bells asbestos sheets in preference to Mangalore tiles; and if so, why;

(b) whether representations have been received by the Government that owing to the increased use of this material the tile industry in Mangalore has suffered considerably; and

(c) whether in the interests of the indigenous tile industry the Government propose to consider the desirability of discouraging the use of Bells asbestos which is a foreign material?

A.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The cost of asbestos roofing is high compared with other patterns of roofing, but the sheets are lighter and easier to fix. For urgent temporary work and in cases where light roofs are needed, this style of roofing has been occasionally adopted.